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cc  
bcc  
Subject Fw: Fly Rod and Reel: Losing America's Last Great Wild  
Fishery

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----- Forwarded by Richard Parkin/R10/USEPA/US on 05/20/2011 01:32 PM -----

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Date: 05/17/2011 01:10 PM  
Subject: Fly Rod and Reel: Losing America's Last Great Wild Fishery

<http://www.flyrodreel.com/blogs/tedwilliams/2011/may/losing-america-fishery>

## The Big Issue: Losing America's Last Great Wild Fish

Submitted by Ted Williams on Tue, 05/17/2011 - 11:58.

As we gear up for the summer fishing season, it's easy to forget about the big issues. We're focused on checking snows in the Rockies flood the rivers, promising hold-onto-your-hat salmon-fly and stone-fly seasons. We're waiting for the Pacific Northwest as spring Chinook and steelhead swim pass the counters at Bonneville and Willamette Falls. We're just showing up in mountain valleys still filled with snow and fast rising rivers in Montana and Wyoming. We're taking accounts and being kind to bosses as we plan trips to our favorite spots. Some of us are gearing up big for the trip, that trip, stashing away money, pinning articles up above the fly-tying desk, and talking with friends over beers at Bristol Bay, Alaska.

But we need to make sure Bristol Bay is still Bristol Bay when we get there. The world's largest sockeye salmon anywhere will be in peril if a massive mining project known as the Pebble Mine comes to pass. This is not just an environmental or sportfishing issue. This is about America's last great wild fishery. If we falter here, we will have laid down our We will have turned an industry with a long history of destroying fisheries loose in a place that provides 40 percent of the fishermen we will have abandoned one of the last places that is hatchery-free, with runs averaging 40 million salmon.

If you fish and have not heard of Pebble, you may have been under a rock. It is a proposal for the largest hard rock mine bringing with it all the pollution risk and water consumption that comes with mining at this scale. It would sit at the world, a place where you can catch 5 types of salmon, rainbows, Dollies, char, northern pike, lake trout and grayling million a year; its commercial fisheries are worth \$400 million each year. Together they provide jobs for more than 10,000 people.

All those jobs will be at risk. And Pebble Mine will cost taxpayers in Alaska and the rest of the United States for the Pebble Partnership finishes mining in 50 years or so, they will lay off the 800 workers, displacing families, leaving a dam, a ten square mile settling pond, and a hole three-quarters of a mile deep. We will be faced with a mine waste

you familiar with copper and gold mines, whether in Utah, Michigan or Montana, you know what it has cost to c the cost of monitoring the mining activities will cost the taxpayer a fortune.

So, you say, what can I do? Maybe you have already signed a petition or friended the Save Bristol Bay page on I Gold” at your house and have a “No Pebble” sticker on your boat. Those are a great start, but we are now beyond We have a tool to stop this beast. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under section 404c of the C disposal of dredged or fill material, even before a permit is submitted, if the waste run-off will have unacceptable and recreational areas. That means the EPA could stop Pebble in its tracks. The agency is completing a watershed for comment within a few months. We as fishermen need to let our members of congress, many who are attacking know that the EPA must take a hard stance on Pebble Mine. No matter your feelings about EPA, taking a hard lo long-term jobs and cost taxpayers for years to come is the right thing to do. Let the EPA know that.

We have 600 businesses, fishing and hunting clubs, conservation groups, chefs, commercial fishing groups, and momentum is there, but we need all hands on deck. Throughout the summer we will be travelling all over the US fishermen and local conservation groups about the importance of this issue. Take the time to read the emails or t on a local fishing forum. Then get off your duff and do something. Donate to the cause, whether you can afford t money to send \$20 bucks. Go to [www.SaveBristolBay.org](http://www.SaveBristolBay.org) today and get involved.

Your member of congress, your U.S. Senators, the EPA and especially President Obama need to know it is time reviewing Pebble Mine as you read this. We sportsmen are middle of the road voters, we need to let President O taking a hard stance on the Pebble Mine is something we will notice. It is about jobs, it is about cutting spending and it is about knowing places like Bristol Bay will be there for that once-in-a-lifetime trip.

So as you gear up for summer, take a moment and consider that the world’s largest wild salmon run could be los your home river looked like 150 years ago, that is what the rivers of Bristol Bay look like, wild. When you work remember we still have Bristol Bay, where the habitat is intact. Even if you can’t stand your member of congress anything to get elected and you’re a voter, so make Pebble Mine an issue. We will be all over the country this ye will take you stepping up. The time is now to stop Pebble Mine.

*Dwayne Meadows Scott Hed*

**Bristol Bay National Outreach Director Director**

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